

Homecoming Rulebook 2026

October 19th - October 25th, 2026

University Union Board

Homemoming Planning Committee

Homecoming 2026 – Schedule

Monday, October 19th

- Paint the Town | 2:30 - 5 PM Macomb City Square

Tuesday, October 20th

- Paint the Paws | 11 AM - 1 PM Western Hall/Q-Lot
- Big Pink Volleyball | 5:30 - 8pm Campus Recreation MAC Gym

Wednesday, October 21st

- Kultural Fusion | 6 - 8 PM Multicultural Center

Thursday, October 22nd

- Flag Football Intramural Championship Game | 7:30 - 9 PM Hanson Field

Friday, October 23rd

- Make A Difference Day | 11 AM - 2 PM Lamoine Room
- Bonfire Bash | 7 - 9 PM The Pit/N-Lot

Saturday, October 24th

- Homecoming Parade | 10:30 AM Alumni House
- Homecoming Football Game | 3 PM Hanson Field
- WestFest Homecoming Concert | 7 PM Grand Ballroom

Sunday, October 25th

- Women's Soccer | 1 PM Mackenzie Alumni Field

HOMECOMING GENERAL RULES-

Homecoming competitions are held to encourage all students to show their school spirit during Homecoming week. Homecoming is an event that's goal is to bring the Western Illinois University community and Macomb community together.

Details:

1. It is mandatory that all teams fill out the Leatherneck Link Form to sign-up to participate in Homecoming 2026 events. Failure to do so will result in ineligibility to participate in Homecoming 2026. All Leatherneck Link Team Participation Registration Form responses must be submitted **BEFORE** Sunday, October 18th at 11:59 PM.
2. Each event that is scored will have its own winners and events are not connected to each other. Not all events will be scored.
3. Any violation of the rules or regulations will result in possible disqualification from the event and / or remaining Homecoming events. Each event has specific rules for participation. **Please read each event page carefully.**
4. Each event has specific participant requirements. As long as your team meets these participation guidelines and completes the form, you are free to assemble your group with any eligible members.
5. **Good sportsmanship is required.** Inappropriate or derogatory comments or actions made about other teams, the Homecoming committee members and/or judges may result in the **DISQUALIFICATION** of the team from the competition.
6. Alcohol (except when authorized and monitored by University Officials) and all other drugs are strictly **prohibited** from all Homecoming events. Evidence, including, but not limited to: appearing inebriated, smelling of alcohol or drugs, empty alcohol bottles in assigned sections during cleanup, etc. may result in disqualification from the event and all remaining Homecoming events.
7. The Homecoming Committee reserves the right to add, omit, and revise any and all rules governing the Homecoming Week competition, without advance notice. Updated rule books will be released through the Homecoming website.
8. Team sign ups can be of groups of individuals or organizations. Any number of organizations or individuals may be part of a team.
9. For any questions, please contact the Office of Student Engagement at (309) 298-3232 or email wihomecoming@wiu.edu.

Office Door Decorating Contest

Description: The Council of Administrative Personnel & the Civil Service Employees Council are inviting you to help build Homecoming Spirit across campus! Join us for the annual door decorating contest; open to all faculty and staff across campus and on the QC Campus! Prizes and bragging rights are up for grabs!

Details:

1. In order to participate in the event, please sign up using this link:
2. Judging will take place on Wednesday, October 21st between 1:00-4:00pm.

For questions, please contact any of the following::

Kelly Severs: kj-severs@wiu.edu

Natalie Divan: nk-divan@wiu.edu

UUBhomecoming@wiu.edu

OSE Office: 309-298-3232

Homecoming Royalty Competition

Description: Come celebrate this Homecoming tradition and celebrate as we crown the 2026 Homecoming Nobility. Students will be scored based on their application, interview with judges, and student body vote. The top two (2) students who achieve the most points based on the three categories will be determined to be the 2026 Homecoming Royalty regardless of student's gender identity.

Details:

1. Candidate Eligibility
 - a. Must have a minimum 2.500 cumulative grade point average
 - b. Must be enrolled as a full-time student with a minimum of 60 credit hours completed
 - c. Must be in good judicial standing, as deemed by the University.
 - d. Candidates must also be representing a registered student organization, only one representative from a registered student organization is eligible.
2. Scoring
 - a. Each candidate will receive an equal score of points for accomplishments in each category of the Homecoming Royalty Competition.
3. Categories of Points
 - a. Application Review by impartial judges
 - b. Interviews judged by impartial judges
 - c. Campus-Wide Vote
4. Campaigning:
 - a. Candidates are permitted to introduce themselves and/or give a short speech about themselves to their respective student organizations, Residence Hall governments, and/or floor meetings.
 - b. Social media promotion by the candidate themselves, and their sponsoring organization, is allowed, but no physical promotional materials such as flyers, posters, hand-outs, etc will be allowed.
 - c. All campaigning must be done in a fair and respectful manner that does not slander, demean, or disrespect the other candidates. Unsportsmanlike conduct from a royalty candidate or their sponsoring organization will result in their immediate disqualification and deduction of royalty points.

Timeline:

1. Application is due on October 9th at 11:59pm
2. Interviews will be held October 14th and/or October 15th.
3. Campus Wide Voting shall occur from noon on October 8th to noon on October 15th.
4. Announcement of Homecoming Royalty will happen at the Homecoming Bonfire on October 23rd
5. All members of the Homecoming Court (Royalty and others) will be in the Homecoming Parade on October 24th

Paint The Town

Monday October 19th, 2026 | 2:30 PM - 5 PM
Macomb City Square

Description: The purpose of this event is to generate excitement in the community for WIU Homecoming by painting the windows of businesses located in the Macomb Square. This event allows the community to see the many talents the WIU campus brings to the community, and helps showcase Western's school spirit throughout Homecoming week.

Details:

1. The Homecoming Committee will assign each team a window pane on the Macomb Square for this event.
2. **5** team members may paint at one time. An unlimited number of members may participate in the event.
3. **Only tempera paints can be used for the window designs!** No glitter may be used, but glitter tempera paint is permitted. **Failure to comply will result in immediate DISQUALIFICATION.**
4. One representative from each team must report to Citizens National Bank entrance on **Monday, October 19th at 2:30 pm** where all of your paint **WILL BE INSPECTED** before you are allowed to begin painting.
5. Window panes must be painted between 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM.
6. The window pane must be painted in good taste and **must** incorporate Western Illinois University, the Homecoming Theme, and team name or image in the design. If the design is inappropriate or violates any above rules, the Homecoming Committee reserves the right to remove the painting.
7. Teams must supply their own materials including, but not limited to: paint, stencils, brushes, and a drop cloth. A drop cloth should be provided by the team and must be used when painting the window pane. **Please do not drip paint on the sidewalks or grass.**
8. If teams are unable to provide their own materials, teams can request a small starter kit for their organization by emailing uubhomecoming@wiu.edu. This is a **starter kit only** and will not be enough for a full entire window.
9. Judges will be neutral parties selected by the Homecoming Committee and will be composed of university employees, alumni, and community members.
10. Judging will occur **on Monday October 19th after 5:00pm.**
11. All window paints should remain intact until **Saturday, October 24th at 12:00pm**
12. Each team will be responsible for having their window cleaned properly by **5:00 PM** on **Sunday, October 25th**. If the window is not cleaned properly by this deadline, the team responsible for cleaning the window will be charged a **\$250 fine**.

Tips and Reminders for Teams:

1. Painting
 - a. Make sure to use tempera paints for all window designs
 - b. Plan out your window design in advance
 - c. If possible, bring stencils to help with painting
 - d. If possible, bring a stepstool to assist with painting high up
2. Cleaning
 - a. Drop cloths can be effective tools
 - b. Soak cloths with warm, soapy water
 - c. Windex can also be an effective way to remove paint
 - d. Plastic or metal scrapers can be effective but **do not scratch the window**
3. Teams
 - a. Not all members will be able to paint at once so take shifts to use time effectively.

Paint The Paws

Tuesday October 20th, 2026 | 11 AM - 1 PM
Western Hall/Q-Lot

Description: Paint the Paws is a time-honored tradition at WIU where the entire WIU community comes out and repaints all Leatherneck paws along University Drive and Western Avenue. Hosted by the Alumni Association, this wonderful event signifies the beginning of Homecoming as members of the community show alumni and friends the way to come back home to Western.

Details:

1. In order to participate in the event, please refer to WIU 2026 Homecoming Paint the Paws Form for information to register a spot.

For questions, please contact:

Marnie Steach: MM-Steach@wiu.edu

Alumni Association 309-298-1914

UUBhomecoming@wiu.edu

OSE Office: 309-298-3232

Big Pink Volleyball

Tuesday October 20th, 2026 | 4 PM - 6 PM
Campus Recreation Center - MAC GYM

Description: Big Pink Volleyball is a lighthearted, high-energy game played using an oversized inflatable pink volleyball. The goal of this event is to promote school spirit and community involvement while also supporting breast cancer awareness. All teams are encouraged to play with enthusiasm, respect, and good sportsmanship.

Details:

1. Each team should consist of 6 to 10 players, with 6 players on the court at a time. Substitutions are allowed during stoppages in play.
2. Games will be played to 21 points or until the 20 minute time limit is reached whichever comes first (This is subject to change depending on the amount of teams participating).
 - a. Rally scoring will be used, meaning a point is awarded on every serve.
3. All matches, and games may follow a single-elimination or round-robin format depending on how many teams register.
4. Players may serve the ball and must hit—not throw—the ball into play.
 - a. Teams are allowed up to three touches per side before sending the ball over the net, and holding, catching, or carrying the ball is not permitted. Blocking is allowed, but aggressive spiking is discouraged for safety reasons.
 - b. Players should avoid making contact with the net or crossing under it during play.
5. All participants must wear appropriate athletic clothing and closed-toe shoes.
6. Officials may remove any player from the game if they show signs of injury or unsafe behavior.
7. Unsportsmanlike conduct, such as excessive arguing, rough play, or disrespect toward referees and other teams, may result in penalties or disqualification.

Make A Difference Day

Friday October 23rd, 2026 | 11 AM - 2 PM
Lamoine Room

Description: Join us in participating in the largest national day of volunteering and make a positive impact on the community.

Bonfire Bash

Friday October 23rd, 2026 | 7 - 9 PM

Q-Lot

Description: The Homecoming Bonfire is the newest Homecoming tradition designed to bring together students, organizations, athletes, and the surrounding community for a night of celebration, talent, and school pride. As one of the main events of Homecoming Week, this evening will feature live performances from student groups and campus organizations, as well as special appearances and remarks from our athletic teams.

In addition to the bonfire itself, the event will include a lineup of entertainment on stage from music and spoken word to dance, comedy, and more. This is a chance for our campus to showcase the creativity, passion, and talent of our students. Local food trucks will be on-site offering a variety of purchasable items, and interactive stations and activities will be available throughout the evening for attendees of all ages to enjoy.

Students, faculty, families, alumni, and members of the community are all invited to attend and be part of this new tradition. Seating and open areas will be available.

We encourage everyone to show their school spirit, support our performers and speakers, and help us create a welcoming, energetic atmosphere for this inaugural celebration. Let's light up the night—together.

PARADE GENERAL RULES

Saturday October 24th, 2026 | 10:30 AM
Macomb City Square - Alumni House

Description: The Homecoming Parade is a time when the Macomb community, WIU students, and WIU Alumni can all come together to celebrate Western Illinois University. All teams are strongly encouraged to enter a float in the parade.

Details:

1. The parade event also requires a separate Google form which can be found on the Homecoming website,
2. Float chairpersons must adhere to specific safety regulations when building their float. Float safety guidelines are located on the next page. Failure to adhere to these details may result in **DISQUALIFICATION**.
3. In case of inclement weather, your contact person will be called between **4:00 - 8:00 AM** on **Saturday, October 24th**, announcing any changes to the start time. Please make sure your parade contact person provides the proper contact information.
4. Floats must be in their starting line-up locations by the start of the parade (**10:30 AM**).
5. While items such as candy, beads, small toys, flyers, etc. may be handed out during the parade, **no items may be thrown from any float**. Entrants may have members of their organizations walk beside their float and hand out giveaway items.
6. All drivers of motor vehicles in the parade must have a valid driver's license, and proof of insurance that can be validated by the Homecoming Committee.
7. If you are caught driving under the influence, you will be subject to punishment by the University, and Macomb Police Department.

FLOAT SAFETY STANDARDS:

Construction and Materials:

1. Floats, displays, and decorations should be structurally sound and designed to withstand adverse weather conditions without collapse.
2. Areas where individuals will be riding on floats shall be of substantial construction to support the weight of the riders. Areas for riders **must** allow for the rider to ride in a natural position without undo chance of injury. Riders are **NOT** allowed to lean or hang off the sides of a float. Riders who are standing must have some type of support mechanism to hold them in place or brace themselves.
3. No devices employing flames or heating devices (i.e. candles, kerosene or gasoline lanterns, torches, space heaters, heat blowers, etc.) will be permitted on floats.
4. There shall be no open contacts, exposed wires, or unprotected, and/or exposed bulbs on the float.

5. Float height **may not** exceed **13** feet, as measured from the ground/street to the highest point on the float.

Fire Safety:

1. A fully charged and **not** expired, all-purpose ABC fire extinguisher (5 lb. minimum) is required on each Homecoming parade float. At least one float passenger must be responsible for, and familiar with the proper operation of the extinguisher.
2. When choosing materials for and constructing a float, we suggest:
 - a. Using materials that are flame resistant or flame retardant whenever possible.
 - b. Using non-flammable finishes such as latex and watercolor paints. Oil-based paints, lacquers, and enamels are much more flammable.
 - c. Using tag board or poster board instead of materials containing inner voids such as corrugated cardboard, cornstalks, and straw.
3. No part of the float should drag or touch the ground or street which could result in items getting entangled in the wheels and/or potential fire hazards. All parts of the float should be a reasonable and safe distance from the ground, wheels, and/or any other part of the float that could entangle them.

Towing Unit:

1. Float height and the height of the towing vehicle **must not** exceed **13** feet as measured from the ground to the highest point on the float and/or towing vehicle.
2. The float unit must be securely hitched to the towing unit; the attachment will include an approved hitch, or safety pin which is to be secured to assure that it cannot fall out or become loose.
3. Ball hitches should be secured by at least 2 welded link safety chains and attached in a manner that will prevent accidental release.
4. Pin hitches should be secured by the pin and a retaining clip to prevent its accidental release.
5. No one is permitted to stand or ride on the float tongue, tractor bars, or hitch assembly.
6. The windshields of any vehicle being used as a towing unit must be clear and unobstructed.
7. The driver of the towing unit must have a valid driver's license and proof of insurance coverage at the time of float inspection on the day of the parade.